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Letter to Intrepid Morse

George Chase

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KOL 240324
Kingston (N.Y.) March 24 - 1824.

My Dear Friend - It is so long since you & I have corresponded, that I feel some embarrassment in commencing anew. The fault of neglect has been wholly on my part - I felt ashamed to meet your reproof, which I knew you would faithfully give, whenever I was unworthy. Alas, my dear friend, I have been much more so, than you would ever even have imagined, - but thankful I am that repentance never comes too late. Would that I could imitate you in self-denial & in purity of life! - We have met, as you have no doubt heard long ere this, an afflicting doubly afflicting loss - the Church as well as ourselves has cause deeply to mourn. Where shall we find another who can compare with him? - May we meet, all of us, together, again, in that happy region where I almost know he has gone.

My Father has written to Mrs. Chace my respected stepmother & sent us a very long Journal of his proceedings. In the last package there were 27 sheets, although many are evidently missing, which I ^{hope} will be received ere long to fill up the blanks in his exceedingly interesting correspondence. I hasten to give you a short & very imperfect abstract, in compliance with the wishes of my Parents. Under date of Nov. 28 ^{the visit of} he writes that he had visited Mrs. Crosby at London ~~into~~ & found her well & rejoiced to see him. Mr & Mrs. Hayden of H^d were also in London & afforded my father great consolation when he stood particularly in need of it. Bp. H^d had published his Notion there with additions, - but my Father even at that time had come to the resolution to enter into no controversy, but to consider him with all Christian charity. My father was cheered at this gloomy period by letters from his friends particularly Mr. Pigourney & Mr. Weymouth of Manchester. Could you read his pious exhortations for patience & forbearance as

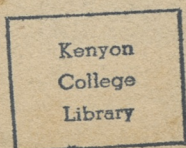
conveyed warm from the heart to the paper, you must be convinced that God's Mercy would not "leave so good a heart to break." I will pass over minor things, which are nevertheless exceedingly interesting, & proceed to those of more importance. — Mr Wheaton, met with the like opposition & seemed resolved, in despondency, to return home. The prejudice excited by Bp. H. against both him & my father was almost impossible to be overcome. Fortunately my father had letters of Introduction from Henry Clay of Ky to Lord Gambier, which Mr Wiggins strongly advised him to make use of at a proper season. — A very virulent article had appeared in the British Critic evidently written by Bp. H. himself, in which my father was termed schismatic &c &c & which was expected to be noticed in the daily papers. — This no doubt, combined with Bp. H's representations, personally had influenced his Lordship's mind. Before calling upon Lord G., however, my father was not idle & had upon stating the plain furnished facts made friends ~~of~~ ^{with} the Rev. Mr. Crosby & others. At length he met Lord G. at the meeting of the Bible Society at London, & was invited by him to his country seat Iwer Grove. He too had read the notices, & tho' very respectful to my father while riding in his carriage, was on his guard & rather cool. But Lord G. is a very religious & candid man, (thanks to the Good God my dear cousin) & after hearing my father's statements, entered warmly into his interests. At that delightful ^{country place} he became acquainted with several persons of select society, among them Capt. Boyse of the Navy, Lord G's nephew &c &c. — There he highly amused with his descriptions of the Western World, no doubt told with his peculiarly characteristic interest. They parted with regret — my father being supplied with a letter to Mr. Pratt Secy to Ch Miss. Society ^{London} & a gentleman of influence, from the good Lord Gambier. Here too Bp. H. had forestalled him by representing the whole American Ch as opposed to my father's mission. But Mr P. after attentively examining my father's documents, said that he was convinced of the error ^{in which} he had indulged & would use all his endeavours to assist him & would call a meeting of a few influential characters, to see what could be done. In the mean time Lord G. kindly wrote to my father — "Mr Pratt examined the map of Ohio & took great interest in the state of the Church, particularly in that of St James' & in the history of the Finley family which was read to him. 'The editor of the Ch^m Observer would be glad' he said 'to lay their hands on ^{an} article

so highly affecting & useful." He approved of the plan of not
retaliating in the least. Christmas was spent at Mr P's house -
— Mr. Wilks the Ed. Chⁿ Observer called on my father at his
humble lodgings & introduced himself. He stated the impression that
Bp Hobart had made on his mind, but concluded "I must
wait that on reflection & the putting together of a few facts &
the holding of a little conversation with others, the tide of opinion
begins to ebb not only in my own mind, but in that of others.
The prima facie appearance of Bp Hobart's cause was very
plausible; but it is not borne out by facts." — What do you think
of that my dear cousin, coming from a man of our acknowledged
abilities? This same Mr Wilks attended the meeting before
mentioned at Mr Pratt's where about a dozen clergymen were
assembled who saluted my father with great kindness. They
unanimously remarked that they were inclined to take a
deep interest in his cause & case, but above all he occupied
the unassailable ground from which none could drive him, — that of
a Pedagogue &c. &c. Thus as he expresses it, God seemed
about by a miracle to interfere in his behalf, through
means, apparently, the least likely to succeed. — From this
time, prospects brighten — The Ch. Miss. Soc. Committee composed
of Mr Wilks, Mr Batt (Ed. Ch. Miss. Register) Webster (Editor
Ch. Guardian) Horne (a writer in the British Critic), entered
warmly into my father's interest. "Will you believe it" says the
Journal "this last is the man who furnished the article in
that work which we saw in New-York, just before my
embarkation for this country. Mr. P. told me that when he
came to reflect on the difference between the late article & that
which he had furnished for this work he was struck with
horror. He will be an active & efficient friend." — They said they
would shield & defend him, but the most gentle method would be
first tried. — All this my father calls but the entering wedge to
the Public. — As the Journal continues prospects brighten — Through
the instrumentality of Mr Wilks he was introduced to the
venerable Bp of St. David's who rec^d him ^{with} kindness & hospitality.
This good man has promised if possible to send out a Welch clergy-
man to his poor countrymen at Radnor. Here too had my
father ever and been misrepresented. But thanks to the Author
all things the very opposition he has experienced has resulted
to his benefit. Here many letters are waiting in the Journal

We next find my Father in Liverpool, Chesterfield, Sheffield
Leeds &c where he was received with open arms. Under the date of
Leeds is "When I arrived at Mrs Childs' dwelling house, she was
out but her daughter, Mrs Hemmingsway & her husband were
at the next door under the same roof, & on my telling them who
I was, gave me a cordial reception. Mr Child being sent for soon
arrived & was much affected at Mr. Morns letter. The whole evening
was spent in most endearing conversation, & this morning I left
them with mutual assurances of good wishes & prayers."

J.
Rev. Intrepid Morse
Haverhill
Ohio

ELINGSTON,
MAR 25
N. Y.



Dear Cousin. I have but a word to say as it regards my
own affairs. They are "poor indeed," but I feel ~~rather~~ desponding
& unhappy. But all may be for the best. The reflection on
my critical situation has almost wholly occupied my mind to the
exclusion of religious reflection. I am not good, neither am I very
bad, but I feel deeply the want of that revivifying Grace, so necessary
to a true Christian.

Farewell - May God bless & protect you Geo. Chas
Rev. J. Morn